

Appl. No. 10/087,142 (Docket 093/005)
Amdt. dated May 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 13, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed as the invention is:

1. -- 12. (*Canceled*)

13. (*Currently amended*) A method for obtaining hepatocyte lineage cells, comprising culturing pPS cells in a growth environment that comprises butyrate or an analog of butyrate and also comprises one or more hepatocyte maturation factors that are either:

- a) an organic solvent selected from dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), dimethylacetamide (DMA); hexmethylene bisacetamide, and other polymethylene bisacetamides; or
- b) a cytokine or hormone selected from glucocorticoids, epidermal growth factor (EGF), insulin, TGF- α , TGF- β , fibroblast growth factor (FGF), hepatocyte growth factor (HGF), IL-1, IL-6, IGF-I, IGF-II, and HBGF-1.

14. -- 20. (*Canceled*)

21. (*Previously Presented*) The method of claim 13, wherein the growth environment comprises DMSO.

22. (*Previously Presented*) The method of claim 13, wherein the growth environment comprises a cytokine.

23. (*Previously Presented*) The method of claim 13, wherein the growth environment comprises HGF.

24. (*Previously Presented*) The method of claim 13, wherein the growth environment comprises insulin.

25. (*Previously Presented*) The method of claim 13, wherein the growth environment comprises FGF.

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26. (*Previously Presented*) The method of claim 13, wherein the growth environment comprises dimethylacetamide.
27. (*Previously Presented*) The method of claim 13, wherein the growth environment comprises hexmethylene bisacetamide.
28. (*Previously Presented*) The method of claim 13, wherein the growth environment comprises EGF.